

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 7-11 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully appreciate the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the personal interview. Applicants record of the interview is incorporated in the above amendment and following remarks.

I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by JP 10-323917; claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over JP 10-323917 in view of EP 658452, EP 925903, U.S. Patent 5,942,069 to Gerresheim et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent 2001/0035255 to Sergel et al. and U.S. Patent No. 6,039,826 to Okada. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

None of the applied art teaches, discloses or suggests a method of producing a tread for a tire which comprises winding on the tire material an uncured high electrically conductive rubber ribbon for the formation of the electrically conductive layer, and winding an uncured tread rubber, made from low electrically conductive rubber and formed as an integral extrusion shaped body, on the tire material, as claimed in claim 1.

Instead, JP 10-323917 discloses that the tread is formed by winding a special material strip 2 consisting of an electrically conductive layer 2a and a non-conductive layer 2b. The height of the tread substantially corresponds to the width of the strip. Further, the electrically conductive layer 2a and the non-conductive layer 2b are alternatively arranged in the widthwise direction of the tread. This disclosure is different from the arrangement of the electrically conductive layer with respect to the uncured tread rubber, according to the present invention.

EP '452, EP '903 and U.S. '069 do not make up for the deficiencies of JP '917 discussed above. Specifically, EP '452, EP '903 and U.S. '069 disclose structures so that the electrically conductive rubber layer is arranged in the tread, in which the rubber layer is made of a single rubber material but is not formed by winding the rubber strip. The arrangement of the single rubber member in the tread must be carried out by a method of forming a notch in the tread and pouring rubber thereinto. In the case of pouring rubber, it is required to use special equipment. Further, the position of arranging the electrically conductive rubber is never located in the bottom of the groove forming the tread pattern, so that the position of the notch or the arranging position of the rubber member should be considered for every pattern.

Sergeo et al. and Okada do not make up for the deficiencies discussed above. Sergio is similar to JP '917 in the technical sense and Okada merely discloses the winding of the rubber strip for the formation of the tread.

However, according to the present invention, the above discussed problems of conventional techniques are solved by adopting the winding of the electrically conductive ribbon as disclosed in the present invention. Further, winding the uncured tread rubber, which is formed as an integral extrusion shaped body, and its arrangement at both sides of the electrically conductive ribbon, can increase the shaping efficiency of the tread. However, the applied art, either alone or in combination, does not disclose or suggest these features.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-5 and 7-11 is respectfully solicited.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-5 and 7-11 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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